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(*b*) whether the Government have any proposal to repair the bridge; and

(*c*) if so, when the repairing work will begin?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMI PADAYACHI :—" (*a*) *to* (*c*) Certain beams of the bridge collapsed on the 7th June 1954. The work of reconstructing the bridge is expected to be taken up by the district board within a month."

Extent of Government forest area in Pudukkotta division of Tiruchirappalli district.

* 593 *Q*.—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent of Government forest area in the Pudukkotta division of the Tiruchirappalli district; and

(*b*) the acreage reserved for game purposes for the Raja of Pudukkotta?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) 55,276 acres.

" (*b*) 32,312 acres."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Has any condition been stipulated, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir. Assurances were given to the Raja of Pudukkotta by the Government of India under the Merger Agreement that certain areas will be left as game-preserve areas."

Expenditure on the construction of roads and loans granted for digging wells.

* 594 *Q*.—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether any loan or aid was given by the Government in 1952 to villagers in rural areas who built roads and dug wells in their areas?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Yes. The Government spent a sum of Rs. 2,21,218–6–6 for construction of roads and granted loans amounting to Rs. 10,76,383–6–0 for digging or deepening wells in the rural areas of the State in 1952."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" இவ்வளவு பணத்தைச் செலவு செய்தும் எத்தனை ரோடுகள் போடப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன, எத்தனை கிணறுகள் வெட்டப் பட்டிருக்கின்றன. எந்த ரோடாவது அல்லது கிணராவது சேரிகளில் வெட்டப் பட்டிருக்கிறதா என்பதை கனம் அமைச்சர் அறிவிப்பார்களா ?" 11-30 a.m.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I cannot answer that question off-hand. The present question relates to the amount spent. If the hon. Member wants details, let him put a separate question and I will be able to answer it."

Dr. K. B. MENON :—" Have the Government issued summary orders for the collection of loans that were advanced in 1952 for digging wells in Malabar? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Only the usual orders have been issued and nothing very particular."

Government Hospital, Tellicherry.

* 595 Q.—Sri K. P. GOPALAN (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the average strength of in-patients in the Tellicherry Government Hospital per month in 1954; and

(b) the sanctioned bed-strength of the maternity ward in the said hospital and the average strength of in-patients per month in that ward in 1954?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) The daily average number of in-patients treated in the Hospital during the first ten months of 1954 was 184·4.

" (b) The sanctioned bed strength of the labour ward of the hospital is only 8, but labour cases are admitted in the ward for women also. The daily average number of labour cases conducted in the first ten months of 1954 was 59·4."

Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" As the hospital is now overcrowded and many persons seeking admission are not getting beds for want of room, will the Government be pleased to construct temporary sheds in order to accommodate more patients? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" It is not considered either desirable or necessary to construct temporary sheds anywhere."

Misappropriation of the Provident Fund amount of the workers of the Standard Cotton and Silk Weaving Company, Kozhikode, by the management.

* 596 Q.—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from Sri K. P. Gopalan, M.L.A., on 10th July 1954, alleging that the management of the Standard Cotton and Silk Weaving Company, Kozhikode, Malabar, have misappropriated Rs. 81,000 out of the Provident Fund of the workers which is to be deposited in a bank under the supervision of the Government; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) The State Government are not concerned with the subject-matter of the question. It is however understood that the letter referred